

Note: this is not a canned response.

FCC,

As a consumer of digital content, I have a grave concern about the proposed Broadcast Flag, and lots of other things that they want to do because of HDTV.

Because the broadcast flag defines what uses are authorized and which are not, unanticipated uses of content which are not foreseeable today are by default unauthorized. There is always a first step that steps on my given rights (by the FCC). I understand that the signal that is transmitted by the TV stations over the air is fair game, public use. If you allow this flag to be used, and if the TV/Video mfgs. are forced to use this flag to block recording, THEN the fair free use has been removed... then what is a person to do when they want to tape a Ball Game when at work on the plane, in a car to grandmaw's, etc.... This flag has the potential to keep this person from doing this... we are heading toward a slipperily slop, and I for one do not like what I see.

But as they say, "If you give an inch....". This is the first step to requiring me to PAY to watch any TV station content transmitted... yes even the Local News... Force me to view what they want just to get their program. i.e. like the commercials. I can see it now.. PAYING to watch the "State of the Union Address". And, don't sit there and say it won't happen.... it sure can.. and almost did when the VCR was trying to come out. As they tried to block the release.

I feel this is leading down a very dark road. I am a law-abiding consumer who believes that piracy should be prevented and prosecuted, but it will not deter the professionals as they have the money and means to defeat this. This will only hurt the MOM'S AND POP'S... the little people out there and not even slow down the "True professional pirate"... Just look at the DVD and what you can get in Asia... the CD and what is found on the streets of Singapore. It is getting harder to find good content on VHS and lots of people still have those in their vans to keep the kids happy on that long trip to grandmaws.. you are prevented from copying a DVD... to analog TAPE..

When and where will "Free and Fair" use of the public airwaves stop and end... this is the first step.

In closing, I urge you to require the content industry to demonstrate that its proposed technologies will allow for all legal uses and will actually achieve the stated goal of preventing professional piracy. And, that copied content received over the air given to a friend is not seen as piracy. If they will not, I urge you not to mandate the broadcast flag.

I see great things for HDTV, but this could be the killer.

Thanks very much for your time, and sorry for the long message and any misspellings.

Perry